

Characteristics of Organisms

K-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)

K-2.3 Match parents with their offspring to show that plants and animals closely resemble their parents.

Taxonomy level: 2.6-A Understand Factual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: As with other indicators at this grade level, students will experience their first formal introduction to important science concepts. These concepts will be expanded as the students advance in their science education. Students will expand their knowledge in 1st grade (1-2.4) as they study life cycles of plants and in 2nd grade (2-2.5) as they study physical characteristics and life cycles of animals.

It is essential for students to know that parent plants or animals can look like the offspring they produce. Examples may be:

- Most plants closely resemble their parent plant after they are grown but they look very different as they are growing (for example, an acorn seed sprout compared to an oak tree that may be many years old).
- Some animals are born with a close resemblance to their parent (for example, kittens compared with the mother cat); they are just smaller.
- The offspring of both plants and animals have many characteristics that are the same and these characteristics will fully develop over time.

NOTE TO TEACHER: Keep the focus on plants and animals that closely resemble their parent rather than organisms that go through metamorphosis.

It is not essential for students to be able to choose animals that do not look like their parents.

Assessment Guidelines:

The objective of this indicator is to *match* parents with their offspring; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to detect similarities between a parent and its offspring.